

Attorney Docket No.: **IRF0037US.NP**
Inventors: **Fredericksen et al.**
Serial No.: **10/591,841**
Filing Date: **December 26, 2006**
Page 5

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the instant application.
Claims 1-4 have been rejected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0119359).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

It is respectfully pointed out that the instant application is the U.S. National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2005/002243. Applicants have amended the specification at page 1 to include the priority claim.

During the PCT stage of this application, in response to the Written Opinion, claim 1 was amended in accordance with teachings in paragraph [0028] to recite a bipolar separator plate for use in a fuel cell comprising an anterior cathodic flow field, a posterior anodic flow field and **two interconnected manifolds** for each reactant supply and outflow. A courtesy copy of the response to the Written Opinion with the amended claim set was provided upon filing of the instant U.S. National Stage Application. It is this amended claim set which is pending in the instant application.

Applicants have provided at page 4 of this response a listing of the pending claims.

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Page 6

The pending claims are clearly distinguishable from Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0119359) as Yamazaki et al. neither teaches nor suggests an embodiment with **two interconnected manifolds** for each reactant supply and outflow.

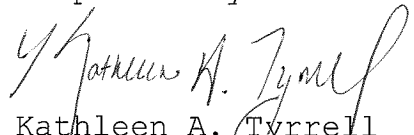
MPEP 2131 and the case law are clear; to anticipate a claim, a reference must teach every element of the claimed invention. Since Yamazaki et al. does not teach every element of claim 1, this reference cannot anticipate claim 1 nor claims 2-4 dependent therefrom.

Withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and subsequent allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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